

REMARKS

Rejections Under 112

Claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claim 12 has been amended to specifically point out the different-radical phosphine oxides contemplated by this invention. Support for the amended claims is found in the specification at page 8 lines 19-20.

CYANEX® 923 is an extractant used in one embodiment of this invention, discussed in the specification at page 8, lines 19-20 and at page 10, lines 20-22. There, CYANEX® 923 is referred to generically as a solution of different-radical phosphine oxide. While Applicant believes that this generic reference distinctly points out the subject matter of this invention, Applicant respectfully submits an amended claim that sets forth the four trialkyl phosphine oxides that comprise CYANEX® 923. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner allow this claim, particularly in light of the amendment.

Rejections under 103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Romanovski '333 in view of Hartmut Bruschke "Industrial application of membrane separation processes" (Pure & Appl. Chem., Vol. 67 No. 6, pp. 993-1002, 1995). Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Romanovski '333 in view of Hartmut Bruschke "Industrial application of membrane separation processes" (Pure & Appl. Chem., Vol. 67 No. 6, pp. 993-1002, 1995) and Gustafson '918. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 15.

Claims 4, 8-11, and 13-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4, 8-11, and 13-14 have been amended accordingly.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow Claims 4, 8-14, as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

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